

OERS Spill Reports

May 10, 2008 - Eric DeBerry, a City of Portland Duty Officer (DO) responded to a complaint that a white substance was entering Johnson Creek via a City outfall. DO investigated the source of the material by interviewing PCC staff who drove him to the City outfall. The PCC employee, Larry Duncan, who observed the discharge, identified it as urea water from the PCC's wax reclaim process. Duncan called the plant at DeBerry's request to stop the discharge by calling a maintenance crew, who was working on the conveyance system of the wax reclaim at the time; the crew then confirmed they had taken action to cease the discharge. DeBerry observed the discharge to the creek had stopped. DeBerry took no samples due to Duncan's confirmation that the discharge was from PCC.

May 13, 2008 - Bureau of Environmental Services meets with Dave Murray, PCC's Environmental Compliance Manager. Murray said that Duncan was mistaken in his statement to DeBerry.

May 27, 2008 - Murray sends a letter to BES, DEQ, and EPA, indicating that PCC was not responsible for spill due to lack of evidence and the fact that he (Murray) could not smell ammonia when he visited the outfall on May 10.

July 10, 2008 - Sherry Uchtyl (PCC) reports PCC is going to place green dye into Johnson Creek from SE 44th at Umatilla St.

August 7, 2008 - Dave Murray (PCC) reports to OERS of a 150-gallon release of Potassium Hydroxide from a storage tank into the Clackamas Sanitary sewage system. Per Dave, Clackamas Co and Beth Moore DEQ have been notified and this will just raise the PH balance of the water.

September 20, 2008 - Sherry Uchtyl (PCC) reports a release of 650 gallons of Potassium Hydroxide release that is at about 23 % strength into storm water treatment system of Clackamas Sanitary sewage system.

September 22, 2008 - Sherry Uchtyl (PCC) reports a line clogged causing a 1000-gallon backup into the city sewer system.

December 3, 2008 - Sherry Uchtyl (PCC) reports a 600 pound spill of alcohol binder "that was apparently caused by human error, a valve was left open. The material went into their sanitary drain system. They stopped the spill and cleaned up what had not reached the drain. This is a permitted facility as they use this material in their manufacturing process."

October 15, 2009 - PCC Structurals manufacturing plant reported one 55 gallon drum containing less than 50 % sodium hydroxide fell from a pallet during transport releasing 25 gallons of fluid to the asphalt and catch basin. Catch basin runs to City of Portland Storm Sewer System at 4600 Harney Drive. Storm drains dump into Johnson Creek, then Umatilla. On scene crew reported no injuries resulted, catch basin valve closed as a remedial effort, contaminated asphalt cleaned.

July 10, 2010 - City of Portland reports 300 gal of noncontact cooling water entering into Johnson Creek without a permit. No chemicals are reported to be in the water. This occurred at PCC Structurals.

August 1, 2010 OERS Report - Private business reports 3,600 gallons of Acid mix spilled into sewage system when tank overflowed at facility. Cause was human error, one employee exposed and transported to Hospital. Spill contained in building and Belfair Environmental contacted for cleanup. City BES notified of spill and EPA. NRC Report - Sherry Uchtyl (caller) is reporting a release of an acidic solution (20% nitric acid and 3% hydrofluoric acid) from an overflow of a process tank (chem mill tank) into a sanitary sewer.